

# BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITY MOVEMENT

2001-2002 Grant Amount: \$ 11 Million

## Office of Employment Development

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### Mission and Vision

To increase the long-term employment of Empowerment Zone (EZ) youth by creating a systemic approach to youth services, by offering a broad array of coordinated resources and activities and helping each young person design and negotiate a career pathway to success.

### Program Overview

Baltimore has developed a seamless Youth Opportunity system that incorporates the Workforce Investment Act framework for serving youth. The system provides EZ youth with intensive academic instruction, employment opportunities, occupational skills training, personal development opportunities and supportive services.

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

- Developed the Baltimore City Youth Practitioners Institute, which provides comprehensive staff training program, devised to ensure core staff are certified in youth development services. A part of the five-week training includes an internship at the Woodstock Job Corps center.
- Successfully developed strong partnerships with the Baltimore City School System, secondary educational institutions, community and faith-based organizations, Job Corps, local government, and the business community.
- Grantee has a centralized employer outreach office called Employ Baltimore. Its staff members work closely with the YOG job developers to identify employment/customized training opportunities for YOG participants.
- Youth are actively involved in program activities. They have assisted in the design and layout of YOG centers, participated on interview and certification panels to screen and select YOG staff applicants. They attend WIB Youth Council meetings regularly. They help conduct workshops and serve on panels. One member prepared and narrated the YO! Baltimore Rap.
- YOG report to the Baltimore City WIB Youth Council. It has also developed a single YO! Advisory Board and Management Team

### KEY PARTNERS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Baltimore Community College:** provides pre-GED/GED and career track training programs, Upward Bound program (for in-school youth), oversees the Baltimore City Youth Practitioner Institute
- **Career Academy:** provides pre-GED/GED and Diploma Plus programs as well as skills/workplace training.
- **Johns Hopkins University:** provides skills training, employment opportunities in the areas of clinical associates, nursing assistants, support associates and clerical associates
- **Civics Works:** provides hands-on skills training and GED instruction
- **College Bound Foundation:** provides college counseling, parent seminars on financial aid, SAT prep courses, and hosts college fairs and college tours
- **Baltimore City Health Department:** provides teen parenting courses and support groups sessions
- **Baltimore Mental Health System:** provides substance abuse and mental health services
- **Baltimore Public School System:** provides a wide range of alternative learning programs that include work-based learning services.